

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
ABSTRACT

Environment, Forests, Science & Technology Department - Diversion of 0.53 ha (0.04 Ha Forest land in Comp No.523, Bhairavanikonda RF and 0.49 ha forest land in Comp No. 524, Bhairavanikonda RF of Kanigiri Range) of forest land in Prakasam Division for Airtel 4G services provision of 4G based mobile service at MHA identified tower locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE-II), in favour of Bharti Airtel Limited – Permission accorded – Orders – Issued.

ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (Section-II) DEPARTMENT

G.O.MS.No. 58

Dated: 20-08-2025
Read the following:-

- 1)From the PCCF & HoFF, A.P., Lr.Ref.No.EFS02-15026/6/2024/ FCA-SEC/PCCF/FCA-3, dated 06.05.2024 and even no.letter dated 28.07.2024.
- 2)State Govt. Letter No. EFS01-FRST/78/2024-SEC-II(2434169), dated 23.08.2024.
- 3)From GoI, MoEF & CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, Online Proposal No.FP/AP/OTHERS/466711/2024, dated 09.09.2024.
- 4)From the PCCF & HoFF, Lr.Rc.No.EFS02-15026/6/2024-FCA SEC-PCCF/FCA-3, dated 18.07.2025.
- 5)State Govt.Letter No. EFS01-FRST/78/2024-SEC-II/2434169 dated 28.07.2025.
- 6)From the GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, online proposal No.FP/AP/OTHERS/466711/2024, dated 06.08.2025.

ORDER:

In the letter 1st read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, has submitted a statutory proforma proposal seeking prior approval of the Central Government under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 0.53 ha (0.04 Ha Forest land in Comp No.523, Bhairavanikonda RF and 0.49 ha forest land in Comp No. 524, Bhairavanikonda RF of Kanigiri Range) of forest land in Prakasam Division for Airtel 4G services provision of 4G based mobile service at MHA identified tower locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE-II), in favour of Bharti Airtel Limited.

2. In the letter 2nd read above, the proposal of the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & HoFF, A.P., was sent to the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, for in-principle approval under Section 2 (1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980.

3. In the letter 3rd read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, has accorded in-principle approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, and has requested to submit the compliance report on the conditions stipulated therein within the prescribed time for final approval.

4. In the letter 4th read above, the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, A.P., has furnished a compliance report on the conditions stipulated in the in-principle approval, for onward submission to the GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, for final approval of the above proposal. The same has been forwarded to the GoI, MoEF & CC, Sub-Office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, for the grant of final approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, vide letter in the 5th read above.

5. In the letter 6th read above, the Government of India, Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change, Sub-office at Vijayawada of the Regional Office, has accorded final approval under Section 2(1) of the Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980, for diversion of 0.53 ha (0.04 Ha Forest land in Comp No.523, Bhairavanikonda RF and 0.49 ha forest land in Comp No. 524, Bhairavanikonda RF of Kanigiri Range) of forest land in Prakasam Division for Airtel 4G services provision of 4G based mobile service at MHA identified tower locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE-II), in favour of Bharti Airtel Limited, subject to certain conditions stipulated therein.

6. Government, after careful examination of the proposal, hereby accord permission to the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, for diversion of 0.53 ha (0.04 Ha Forest land in Comp No.523, Bhairavanikonda RF and 0.49 ha forest land in Comp No. 524, Bhairavanikonda RF of Kanigiri Range) of forest land in Prakasam Division for Airtel 4G services provision of 4G based mobile service at MHA identified tower locations in Left Wing Extremism (LWE-II), in favour of Bharti Airtel Limited, subject to the following conditions:-

S.No.	Conditions
1.1	Legal status of the diverted forest land shall remain unchanged;
1.2	No damage to the flora and fauna of the adjoining area shall be caused;
1.3	No labour camp shall be established on the forest land;
1.4	The User Agency shall provide fuels preferably alternate fuels to the labourers and the staff working at the site so as to avoid any damage and pressure on the nearby forest areas;
1.5	The forest land shall not be used for any purpose other than that specified in the proposal;
1.6	The layout plan of the proposal shall not be changed without the prior approval of the Central Government;
1.7	The forest land proposed to be diverted shall under no circumstances be transferred to any other agency, department or person without prior approval of the Central Government;
1.8	Any tree felling shall be done only when it is unavoidable and that too under strict supervision of the State Forest Department;
1.9	The period of diversion under this approval shall be co-terminus with the period of lease to be granted in favour of the user agency or the project life, whichever is less;
1.10	No additional or new paths will be constructed inside the forest area for transportation of construction materials for execution of the project work;
1.11	The total forest area utilized for the project shall not exceed 0.53 ha;
1.12	The concerned Divisional Forest Officer, will monitor and take necessary mitigative measures to ensure that there is no adverse impact on the forest in the surrounding area;
1.13	The User Agency shall submit the annual self-compliance report in respect of the above stated conditions to the State Government and Regional Office by the end of March every year;
1.14	The user agency shall comply with all the provisions of all Acts, Rules, Regulations, Guidelines, Hon'ble Court Order (s) and NGT Order (s) pertaining

	to this project, if any, for the time being in force, as applicable to the project;
1.15	The conditions required to be adhered under the Forests Right Act, 2006 as per the rules/guidelines issued under Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 shall be strictly complied with;
1.16	Any other condition that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change may stipulate from time to time in the interest of conservation, protection and development of Forest and Wildlife;
1.17	Violation of any of these conditions will amounts to violation of Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, 1980 and action would be taken as prescribed under the Act, Rules and Guidelines relevant;

2. Standard Conditions

S.No.	Conditions
2.1	N/A

3. Specific Conditions

S.No.	Conditions
3.1	Compensatory Afforestation shall be taken up in the identified DFL, Comp.No.477, Veligonda RF, Mundlapadu Beat, C.S Puram Section of Kanigiri Range for raising ten times number of trees to be felled at the project cost. The same shall be maintained for the period as prescribed under VSESA, 1980. The approved CA scheme shall not be changed without prior approval.
3.2	The KML file of the forest area to be diverted and CA area shall be uploaded on the e-green watch portal.
3.3	The User Agency has made payment Rs. 35,79,000/- towards CA and NPV (Rs.30,71,400/-towards CA. Rs.5,07,600/- towards NPV,). The levies paid by the UA shall be utilized for the same as per the approved plan/scheme.
3.4	The User Agency shall provide CA in NFL area for compensatory afforestation in lieu of the forest area diverted, if applicable, based on the final outcome in the WP No.1164/2023, which is currently pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The State Forest Department shall ensure that an undertaking from the user agency is obtained in this regard.

7. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force, Andhra Pradesh, shall take further necessary action in the matter accordingly.

(BY ORDER AND IN THE NAME OF THE GOVERNOR OF ANDHRA PRADESH)

G.ANANTHA RAMU
SPECIAL CHIEF SECRETARY TO GOVERNMENT

To
The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests & Head of Forest Force,
Andhra Pradesh, Mangalagiri, Guntur District.

Copy to:
1.The Inspector General of Forests,
ROHQ, MoEF&CC, Indira Paryavaran Bhavan,
Jor Bagh Road, Aliganj, New Delhi – 110 003.

2. The Assistant Inspector General of Forests (Central),
GoI, MoEF&CC, Sub-office at Vijayawada of
Regional Office, Chennai, Green House Complex,
Gopal Reddy Road, Vijayawada – 520 010.
3. M/s. Bharati Airtel Ltd., Airtel Centre, plot No.16,
Udyog Vihar, Phase-IV, Gurugram, Haryana-122015.
- 4.SC/SF

//FORWARDED BY ORDER//

SECTION OFFICER